

7478
VINDICATION

OF THE

C O N D U C T

OF THE

ENGLISH FORCES,

UNDER

BRIGADIER GENERAL MATHEWS,

WINDMILL

CO. 1000



STOCKS

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BRIGADIER GENERAL MATTHEWS

VINDICATION

OF THE

C O N D U C T

OF THE

ENGLISH FORCES,

EMPLOYED IN THE LATE WAR,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

BRIGADIER GENERAL MATHEWS,

AGAINST THE

NABOB TIPPOO SULTAUN.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED AT THE Logographic Press, BY J. WALTER,
PRINTING-HOUSE-SQUARE, BLACKFRIARS,

VINDICATION

OF THE

CONDUCT

OF THE

ENGLISH PEOPLE

UNTO THE



THE

ADDRESS

MUSEUM

LONDON

PRINTED BY THE MUSEUM PRESS, BY J. WATKINS,
PRINTING OFFICE, 10, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

*At a General Court of the United
Company of Merchants of England
trading to the East Indies, held at
their House in Leadenhall-Street,
on Wednesday the 19th of Decem-
ber, 1787,*

ORDERED, That the following papers
be printed for the use of the Proprietors
at large, viz.

The 147th paragraph of the General Let-
ter from Bombay, dated the 24th of Febru-
ary, 1787.

Letter from the Military Officers who
served under Brigadier General Mathews in
the year 1783, to the Governor and Coun-
cil of Bombay.

Vindication

Vindication of the Conduct of the English Forces employed in the late war under the command of Brigadier General Mathews against the Nabob Tippoo Sultaun.

Extract

*Extract of the General Letter from
Bombay, dated 24th February, 1787.*

Para. 147.

On the 17th instant was laid before us, an Address from the Officers who acted under Brigadier General Richard Mathews, on the late Southern Service, enclosing a Vindication of their Conduct from Aspersions thrown thereon by various Publications in England, and particularly in the New Annual Register, for 1784. In compliance with their Wishes we now forward their Vindication in Original, with Copy of their Letter to us.

Letter

*Letter from the Military Officers who
served under Brigadier General
Mathews in the Year 1783, to the
Governor and Council of Bombay.*

Hon. Sir, and Sirs,

*A due Regard for our own Characters
and the honour of the Establishment to which we
belong, make it incumbent upon us, (the Officers
employed under Brigadier General Mathews) to
justify ourselves from the gross Aspersions, which
have been thrown upon us in England, for our
Conduct upon the Southern Service, in a variety
of Publications, but particularly in the New
Annual Register for the Year, 1784.*

*We therefore beg Leave to submit the accom-
panying Narrative of Facts to your Honourable
Board, which, we humbly request, you will
forward to our Honourable Masters by the Ship
under*

under dispatch, and hope you will be pleased to recommend it to them to publish it by their own Authority.

We trust that the Honourable the Court of Directors will have as great a Satisfaction in affording us that Justice as we know your Honourable Board will experience in being instrumental to it.

We have the Honour to be, with the utmost respect,

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servants,

J. S. Toriano,	Major.
J. Panton,	Captain.
J. Sartorius,	ditto.
D. Carpenter,	ditto.
Henry Oakes,	ditto.
J. Thompson,	ditto.
J. Macdonald,	ditto.

B

F. W.

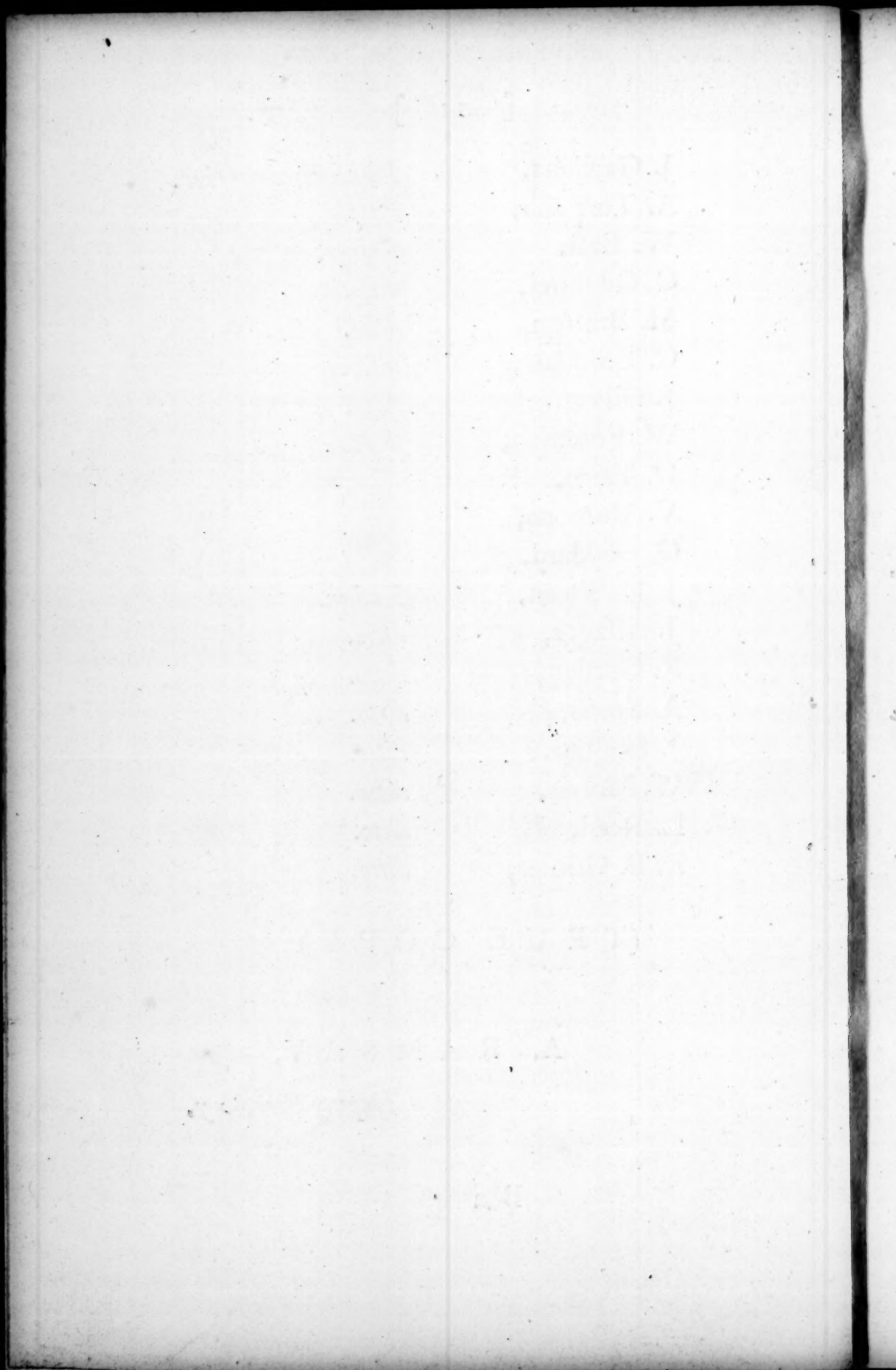
F. W. Bellis,	<i>Captain</i>
J. Lampard,	<i>ditto.</i>
W. H. Blachford,	<i>ditto.</i>
W. Home,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Wiseman,	<i>ditto.</i>
G. W. Mignan,	<i>ditto.</i>
C. H. Wittman,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. T. Bland,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Paterfon,	<i>Lieut.</i>
W. Williamfon,	<i>ditto.</i>
T. Hooke,	<i>ditto.</i>
S. Wilfon,	<i>ditto.</i>
R. Doolan,	<i>ditto.</i>
F. Cheeke,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Baird,	<i>ditto.</i>
S. Thompson,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Rattray,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Ward,	<i>ditto.</i>
R. Cooke,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. James,	<i>ditto.</i>
R. Seale,	<i>ditto.</i>
C. Sutton,	<i>ditto.</i>
T. Fyfe,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Hull,	<i>ditto.</i>
T. Grummond,	<i>ditto.</i>
R. Budden,	<i>ditto.</i>
T. Walton,	<i>Lieut. Fire-worker.</i>
	J. Grif-

J. Griffiths,	<i>Lieut. Fire-worker.</i>
A. Torriano,	<i>ditto.</i>
W. East,	<i>Ensign.</i>
C. Odonnel,	<i>ditto.</i>
M. Bratton,	<i>ditto.</i>
C. Lonsdale,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Gilkie,	<i>ditto.</i>
W. Foreman,	<i>ditto.</i>
D. Price,	
V. Mumbee,	
G. Goddard,	
J. C. Sheen,	<i>Ensign.</i>
J. Alfager,	<i>ditto.</i>
R. Gordon,	<i>ditto.</i>
A. Spens,	<i>ditto.</i>
J. Skelton,	<i>ditto.</i>
W. Morris,	<i>ditto.</i>
L. Reed,	<i>ditto.</i>
E. B. Gilmer,	<i>ditto.</i>

(TRUE COPY.)

A. RAMSAY,

Deputy Secretary.



A

VINDICATION, &c.

SEVERAL misrepresentations having appeared in the New Annual Register for the year 1784, which reflect the highest dishonour on the King's and Company's forces who served in the late war, on the Western side of India, under Brigadier General Mathews, against the Nabob Tippoo Sultaun, We, the surviving officers in the Honourable the East-India Company's service, judge it necessary, in vindication of our conduct, to point them out, and relate the real matters of fact.

Various letters and paragraphs of the same tendency were formerly published in the Papers, which we naturally concluded would

have been contradicted by those officers who had survived their imprisonment, and returned to their native country; but as we find they have hitherto passed unnoticed, and have been attempted to be handed down to posterity, evidently to brand with infamy the conduct of the army, by being inserted in a publication considered in general authentic, we esteem them worthy our most serious attention, particularly as the Editors have derived their information from letters, said to be written by two officers of the Bombay establishment. We however hope, by a candid relation of facts, to efface every injurious impression, which these misrepresentations may have stamped upon the minds of the public.

We think any exordium unnecessary; and shall therefore proceed to contradict such parts of the Annual Register, under the head of British and Foreign History, as materially concern us,—quoting each paragraph.

QUOTATION.

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

Page 96. “ The “ campaign of 1783, “ was opened in the “ kingdom of Canara, “ by Brigadier Gene- “ ral Mathews, with “ the storm of Onore “ on the 5th of Janu- “ ary. “ The drama com- “ menced upon this “ occasion in a man- “ ner worthy of the “ events that were to “ follow. No quarter “ was given by the “ victorious English, “ every man they met “ was put to the “ sword.”	On the evening of the 4th of January, a practicable breach be- ing made, General Ma- thews sent in a flag of truce, summoning the garrison to surrender, and warning the Kil- lahdaur of the fatal con- sequences that would ensue if he stood a storm, at the same time offering him fa- vourable terms. The offers were rejected, the breach was storm- ed the next day at noon, and according to the rules of war, all who continued in arms, or made any
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QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

resistance received no
 quarter; but we so-
 lemnly declare, that as
 soon as quarter was de-
 manded, it was grant-
 ed, and none but those
 who obstinately resist-
 ed, felt the effects of
 our superiority. The
 number of the enemy
 killed and wounded
 did not exceed three
 hundred and fifty;
 some few made their
 escape; and upwards
 of two thousand were
 taken prisoners. Capt.
 Oakes, who command-
 ed a party that was
 detached to cut off the
 retreat of the enemy
 across

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

across the river, gave quarter to eight hundred and twelve of them the instant it was demanded, and would not permit one of them to be plundered, though by the custom of war, in the present instance, it was certainly allowable.

The whole of the prisoners except three of the principal officers, being first disarmed, were released the next morning, permitted to go where they chose, and allowed to carry with them
their

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

their private property;
The wounded were
received into our hos-
pitals ; were attended
and cured by the
European Surgeons,
and their assistants,
and afterwards per-
mitted to go to their
own homes.

Page 96. " Upon
" this occasion we beg
" leave to transcribe
" three lines from the
" private letter of one
" of the officers con-
" cerned in the ex-
" pedition.—" The
" carnage (says he)
" was great ; we
" trampled

These lines were ex-
tracted from a letter,
said to be written by
Ensign *John Hubbard*.
—At the period this
young soldier's bosom
" glowed with heroic
" glory," it is well
known he was station-
ed at a small fort, cal-
led

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ trampled thick on “ the dead bodies that “ were strewed in the “ way. It was rather “ shocking to hu- “ manity, but such “ are only secondary “ considerations, and “ to a soldier whose “ bosom glows with “ heroic glory, they “ are thought acci- “ dents of course. “ His zeal makes him “ aspire after farther “ victory.”	led Compton, several leagues distant from the scene of action, and did not join the army until the reduc- tion of Hydernagur.— As this young gentle- man is dead, we shall make no further com- ment upon his extra- ordinary epistle.
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Page 96. “ In the “ fortrefs of Onore “ were found fums of “ money to an un- “ known	There were many vague reports of mo- ney being found in Onore, but, as they were
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QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ known amount, be- “ sides jewels and di- “ amonds. A confi- “ derable part of this “ appearsto have been “ secured as private “ plunder by General “ Mathews: the com- “ plaints of the mi- “ litary were loud; “ they thought, and “ naturally, that the “ acquisition of riches “ was the fair and rea- “ sonable consequence “ of the perpetration “ of bloodshed.”	were never confirmed, the army could not, nor even did they mur- mur at being depriv- ed of what never ex- isted: consequently, the inference, which the candid Editors have been pleased to draw, must of course fall to the ground.
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Page 97. “ The “ English had, how- “ ever, already obtain- “ ed	This mode of re- lating the circum- stance carries with it a strong
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QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ ed a considerable re-
 “ putation by their
 “ executions; and the
 “ use of the bayonet,
 “ the most fatal in-
 “ strument of war,
 “ and which was em-
 “ ployed by them on
 “ all occasions, cre-
 “ ated so extreme a
 “ terror in the enemy,
 “ as to enable them
 “ to surmount this o-
 “ therwise impregna-
 “ ble defile.”

a strong impression of
 cruelty. The bayonet
 was certainly used, and
 it was absolutely ne-
 cessary, being con-
 sidered the most speedy
 and effectual means of
 executing the orders
 of the commander in
 chief, to dislodge the
 enemy from their
 strong holds in the
 Ghauts, the natural
 strength of which had
 been considerably ad-
 ded to by strong bat-
 teries, redoubts, &c.
 and as the numerous
 foe shewed every ap-
 pearance of defending
 them, the British
 troops

QUOTATION,

REFUTATION.

troops of course used the arms they were provided with, and their exertions were attended with the wished for success. But there was no wanton or unnecessary effusion of blood.

Page 97. “ The “ wealth of this me- “ tropolis (Hyderna- “ gur) in gold alone, “ is variously repre- “ sented. By the ac- “ counts of Bombay, “ it was stated only “ at £.175,000; but “ the officers concern- “ ed in the expedition “ stated	It is not possible to ascertain the exact sum, but we believe about eighteen lacks of pagodas, (£801,000.) together with a quantity of jewels, were found at Hydernagur. A moiety of this treasure was undoubtedly the property of the captors,
--	--

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ stated it as amount- “ ing to £1,200,000, “ or £1,920,000. It “ must be remember- “ ed, that this was “ only public treasure, “ the private property “ that was seized on “ by the army, ex- “ clusive of this sum, “ was doubtless con- “ siderable. The trea- “ sure was at first “ shewn by the gene- “ ral to his officers, “ and declared to be- “ long to the army. “ We afterwards re- “ ceived new light “ upon the subject, “ and informed them, “ that	captors, and the army were, no doubt, much dissatisfied at being de- prived of their right, yet this discontent ne- ver retarded the public service. Owing to the embarrassed situation of the Company's af- fairs, a great part of the army were eigh- teen months in arrears, and at that time, even their current monthly subsistence was not paid them, yet they readily underwent e- very fatigue, and yeild- ed at all times implicit obedience to the Com- mander in Chief: the rapid
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QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ that it actually be- rapid success of the
 “ longed to the Ma- troops fully evinces
 “ hometan governor that order and discip-
 “ of the place, and line were *not* at an
 “ was secured to him end. Colonels Mac-
 “ by the terms of sur- leod and Humberstone
 “ render.” where the only gentle-

“ If the army were principal people in the
 “ discontented with army, who quitted
 “ the selfish and in- Hydernagur, and re-
 “ terested conduct of turned to Bombay. It
 “ their Commander is very evident the
 “ at Onore, their dis- credit which the select
 “ pleasure at this new Committee of Bombay
 “ instance of the same gave to General Ma-
 “ kind was boundless thews's charges against
 “ and extreme. Co- the army by appoint-
 “ lonel Macleod put ing Colonel Macleod
 “ himself at the head (the officer who had
 “ of the malecontents, complained against
 and him)

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ and the controversy “ grew to so great a “ length, that this of- “ ficer, together with “ some of the princi- “ pal people in the “ army, quitted Hy- “ dernagur, and re- “ turned to Bombay. “ The bitterest recri- “ minations, between “ the General and his “ Officers, succeeded “ this event. The “ latter charged Ge- “ neral Mathews with “ a spirit of peculati- “ on, equally superior “ to shame, and in- “ capable of satiety— “ the General, in re- “ turn,	him) to supersede him in the command. The Editor's information respecting the private plunder seized by the army is totally ground- less. The strictest or- ders were issued, pro- hibiting private plun- der, and we know of no instance of their be- ing disobeyed. We will not pretend to as- sert, that the army were totally immacu- late, nor can it be said, there ever was an ar- my, even in Europe, or in any other quarter of the globe, wholly blameless. Some few C irre-
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QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ turn, declared of his “ whole army, that “ they had done every “ thing that was dif- “ respectful and inju- “ rious to him ; that “ order and discipline “ were at an end, and “ that the soldiery, “ encouraged by the “ practice of their of- “ ficers, were become “ loose and unfeeling “ as the most licenti- “ ous free-booters.”	irregularities and ex- travagances might have been committed by in- dividuals among the soldiery, but so far from having been en- couraged in the prac- tice of them by their officers, we solemnly declare, we discounte- nanced every thing of the kind which came to our knowledge.
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Page 97. “ From “ Hydernagur, Gene- “ ral Mathews sent “ out various detach- “ ments, for the forts “ in	This extract is taken from a letter said to be written by Ensign John Charles Sheen, and affixed to Captain Oakes’s
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QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ in the inland coun-
 “ try, and upon the
 “ coasts. Of the for-
 “ mer, the principal
 “ was Annanpour.—
 “ The expedition a-
 “ gainst this place was
 “ commanded by Maj.
 “ Campbell. When
 “ a practicable breach
 “ was effected, orders
 “ were issued for a
 “ storm, and no quar-
 “ ter: they were re-
 “ ceived with alacrity,
 “ and put in execu-
 “ tion without delay.
 “ Every man in the
 “ place was put to the
 “ sword, except one
 “ horseman, who
 “ made

Oakes's Narrative. Mr.
 Sheen, since the pub-
 lication of it, having
 been addressed by that
 gentleman on the sub-
 ject, replied in these
 words. “ The busi-
 “ nefs of Annanpour,
 “ is greatly exagger-
 “ ated, and contrary
 “ to what I wrote
 “ home, together with
 “ the whole of the
 “ Appendix. As I
 “ never commented
 “ upon it myself, it
 “ is impossible that I
 “ can be accountable
 “ for what the printer
 “ chose to publish
 “ without my know-
 “ ledge

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ made his escape, “ after being wounded “ in three different “ places. The wo- “ men, unwilling to “ be separated from “ their relations, or “ exposed to the bru- “ tal licentiousness of “ the foldiery, threw “ themselves, in mul- “ titudes, into the “ moats with which “ the fort was sur- “ rounded. Four hun- “ dred beautiful wo- “ men, pierced with “ the bayonet, and “ expiring in one a- “ nother's arms, were “ in this situation “ treated	“ ledge or consent.” —The circumstances attending the siege of Annanpour are as fol- lows. After the reduction of Hydernagur, Capt. M'Culloch having re- ceived an order from Hyat Saib, to the Killahdaur of Annan- pour, to deliver up the fort to him, marched thither in command of the 15th battalion of seapoys; and on his ar- rival sent in a flag of truce with a Jemmah- daur, and two of Hy- dar Saib's Hircarrahs, and
--	---

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

“ treated by the Bri-
 “ tish with every kind
 “ of outrage: for this
 “ conduct the troops,
 “ however, we are
 “ told, afterwards re-
 “ ceived a reprimand.”

and demanded the sur-
 render of the place.
 This flag was violated
 by the detention of the
 people, and no answer
 was given: a second
 flag, with a Subahdaur
 and two Havildars was
 sent in, to know the
 reason of that viola-
 tion, demanding the
 release of the officer,
 and an answer to the
 summons first sent
 them. This flag was
 likewise detained, and
 no reply sent. An old
 woman belonging to
 the place was shortly
 after charged with a
 letter to the Killah-

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

daur of the fort, to demand the return of the flags of truce, remonstrating against the proceedings of the garrison, and threatening them with the consequences of the violation : she brought back a written answer in the Canara language, which contained a defiance. All the officers and men who accompanied the flags of truce were stripped of their clothes, and sent in irons, as prisoners, to Simoga (a fort forty-two miles distant). Information of these
cir.

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

circumstances being sent to the General, a reinforcement was ordered to march, consisting of his Majesty's 42d and 100th regiments, part of the 98th regiment, and the 2d grenadier battalion of sepoy, with some guns, to make a regular attack upon the place. A breach was soon effected; the 42d regiment and 2d grenadier battalion stormed; the 100th regiment, and 15th battalion, were posted to cut off the retreat, and the 98th regiment guarded

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

the encampment. Maj. Campbell, in compliance with the orders he received from the Commander in Chief, gave particular and repeated directions to take none prisoners but those who bore arms; and personally reprimanded some of the officers for not seeing these orders rigidly executed. On this occasion, between two and three hundred of the enemy were killed and wounded: the latter were taken the greatest care of in our own hospitals, and when cured, were

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

were exchanged for our officers and men who had been treacherously taken with the flags of truce. The story of the four hundred women is as false as it is infamous, and worthy only the fabricator. There was but one woman unfortunately killed, and another wounded; and these casualties happened by mere accident. Two children were likewise accidentally wounded in the confusion of the storm.

The severity this garrison was treated with,

QUOTATION.

REFUTATION.

with, was entirely owing to their having been guilty of a breach of the law of nations, and of the rules of war, which every power throughout Hindostan have a thorough knowledge of.

There are a variety of other misrepresentations offered to the public through the same channel ; but we shall not take the trouble, or do we think it worth our while, to enter into a refutation of every particular one. Our present aim is, to convince the world, that during our residence in this distant clime, we have not forfeited every title to the feelings of humanity.

We

We were ordered into the Canara country to draw Tippoo Saib from the Carnatic, where he had been ravaging, with unrelenting barbarity, from the commencement of the war; reducing large and populous villages and cities to ashes, plundering the inhabitants, destroying the appearance of agriculture, and, to fill up the measure of his cruelty, driving the unfortunate wretches to distant and uncultivated parts of his own empire, there to toil under the heavy hand of power and oppression. Let his advocates among our countrymen contemplate this picture, and compare it with that we have impartially drawn of our conduct against his dominions—then let them blush at declaring the sufferings which we endured were “just and merited.”

We beg it may be remembered, that retaliation was not the object of General Mathews's campaign. Those who served under him acted like men, who, while they were

2

doing

doing their duty, forgot not the calls of humanity, but lamented, that the horrors of war should have involved the innocent with the guilty. The soldier must pay implicit obedience to the voice that commands him, however the feelings of the man may be affected.

When opposition ceased, we gladly embraced the favourable moment; and were happy at all times, consistent with the good of the service, and our own safety, to shew compassion to the vanquished.

It has, in some degree, answered the purpose of a faction to mislead the minds of the public, by the grossest slanders on the servants of the Company. The Editors of the New Annual Register have, with much pomp and parade of language, introduced the little History of the Conquest of Canara, with every trait of warm and prejudiced minds, carried away by the tide of popular opinion;

opinion; and have studiously sought for, eagerly caught, and highly embellished, every little incident, to cast indelible infamy and disgrace upon us: but we trust we have defeated their intentions by a plain narrative of facts, which we pledge our honours to the truth of; and hope we have, by this means, erased the unfavourable impressions our countrymen must have received.

BOMBAY, 15th

Feb. 1787.

(S I G N E D)

J. S. Toriano,	<i>Major.</i>
James Panton,	<i>Captain.</i>
J. Sartorius,	<i>Captain.</i>
D. Carpenter,	<i>Captain.</i>
Henry Oakes,	<i>Captain.</i>
J. Thompson,	<i>Capt. Artillery.</i>
J. Macdonald,	<i>Captain.</i>
Wm. Home,	<i>Captain.</i>
T. Bellis,	<i>Captain.</i>
John James,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Con. Odonnel,	<i>Ensign.</i>

Matthew

Matthew Bratton,	<i>Ensign.</i>
J. Wiseman,	<i>Captain.</i>
Law. Reed,	<i>Engineer.</i>
E. B. Gillmer,	<i>Ensign.</i>
M. Chs. Sheen,	<i>Ensign.</i>
Richard Scott,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Joseph Bland,	<i>Captain.</i>
John Alfager,	<i>Ensign.</i>
C. H. Wittman,	<i>Captain.</i>
Robert Gordon,	<i>Ensign.</i>
Ed. Wm. Foreman,	<i>Ensign.</i>
Cæsar Sutton,	<i>Lieut.</i>
David Price,	<i>Ensign.</i>
Arthur Spens,	<i>Ensign.</i>
John Skelton,	<i>Captain.</i>
John Hull,	<i>Lieut.</i>
James Paterfon,	<i>Lieut.</i>
G. W. Mignan,	<i>Captain.</i>
Wm. Williamson,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Thos. Hooke,	<i>Lieut.</i>
S. Wilfon,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Richard Doolan,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Wm. East,	<i>Engineer,</i>
Francis Cheeke,	<i>Lieut.</i>
J. Griffiths,	<i>Lieut. Fire-worker.</i>
T. Walton,	<i>Lieut. Fire-worker.</i>
James Baird,	<i>Lieut.</i>

Samuel

Samuel Thompson,	<i>Lieut.</i>
James Rattray,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Jeremiah Ward,	<i>Lieut.</i>
Rd. Cooke,	<i>Lieut.</i>
J. Lampard,	<i>Captain.</i>
W. H. Blachford,	<i>Captain.</i>
Wm. Morris,	<i>Engineer.</i>
C. Lonfdale,	<i>Ensign.</i>
James Gilkie,	<i>Ensign.</i>
Thomas Fyfe,	<i>Lieut.</i>
V. Mumbee,	<i>Praët. Engineer.</i>
Thos. Grummond,	<i>Lieut.</i>
S. Goddard,	<i>Praët. Engineer.</i>
Alex. Torriano,	<i>Lieut. Fire-worker.</i>
Richard Budden,	<i>Lieut.</i>

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